

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MS. NORIS COLON

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month of March, which has been designated Woman's History Month, to pay tribute to Ms. Noris Colon, president and chief executive officer of H.O.G.A.R. (Housing Options & Geriatric Association Resources, Inc.), an organization dedicated to improving the lives of homeless, elderly, mentally ill, physically challenged, and HIV/AIDS-infected individuals in the Bronx.

Noris was born in Salinas, PR, and is very proud of her family and heritage. She comes from a family with a long tradition of public service. In her home town of Salinas, there is a street named after her late father, Juan Manzanet, who was the first chief of the fire department.

Mr. Speaker, in 1996, Noris founded H.O.G.A.R. to fill a gap in the social service delivery system in Bronx County. The organization's mission is not only to raise awareness of the housing and health issues facing burdened groups of society, but also to provide ways of remedying these issues. As a result of her strong leadership, H.O.G.A.R. was selected as the "Outstanding Agency of the Year" by the Bronx Psychiatric Center and the State Office of Mental Health.

Noris has an extensive background in social and rehabilitative services and mental health administration. Her experience encompasses personnel management, psychiatric rehabilitation, community relations, and the development of special needs housing programs. She graduated from Nyack College, where she specialized in organizational management.

Mr. Speaker, Noris resume is impressive. She was the first administrator of the Mental Health Program of Hunts Point Multi Service Center. She has also served as director of Community Residences of South Bronx Mental Health Council and has worked at Casa La Esperanza and Harlem Hospital. In addition, Noris has served as chief of staff for City Councilman Federico Perez and was appointed Human Rights Commissioner of New York by Mayor Abraham Beame.

Mr. Speaker, for her immeasurable contributions to those most in need and most overlooked, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this incredible woman.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL ALTERNATIVE FUELS TRAINING CONSORTIUM AND IVY TECH STATE COLLEGE NORTHWEST

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before

you to recognize the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium and Ivy Tech State College Northwest as they join together for the second National Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Day Odyssey. They, along with other community leaders, will come together on Friday, April 2, 2004, at the Westfield Shoppingtown in Merrillville, Indiana, to explore alternatives to powering cars and trucks with fuels besides gasoline and diesel throughout many locations all across north-west Indiana.

The National AFV Day Odyssey began in 2002. The first event reached more than 17,000 people at 51 sites nationwide. This event will explore the environmental needs for AFV in our country, and local participants will learn of alternative fuel options to protect the future of not only northwest Indiana but the rest of the Nation as well. The National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium and Ivy Tech State College Northwest will be educating participants on how alternative fuel and advanced-technology vehicles rely on domestic fuels such as propane and natural gas to provide power for vehicles, which in turn help protect our environment.

The mission of the National AFV Day Odyssey is as follows: "To strengthen our Nation's energy security, to preserve our Nation's energy independence, to improve our Nation's air quality, to support our national expertise and technological advancement, to offer wider choices and opportunities for American drivers, and to spread the exciting news that advanced-technology and alternative fuel vehicles are a positive choice for transportation." The mission and goals of National AFV Day are vital to the protection of our environment and for the future generations of our country and the world.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing and paying tribute to the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium and Ivy Tech State College Northwest as they strive to provide the tools and education for protecting our local, as well as national, interests in securing both the future of our environment and our Nation's energy independence.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY OF HOUSE FOR VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN IRAN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 526 expressing the sympathy of the House of Representatives for the victims of the devastating earthquake in Bam, Iran, on December 26, 2003.

I was horrified to see a whole city brought to a sudden stop in a few seconds of brutal seismic activity. Approximately 40,000 people

died, or two-thirds of the 60,000 deaths worldwide from manmade and natural disasters in 2003; 30,000 people were injured, and up to 75,000 people were made homeless. But these statistics tell nothing of the personal impact of this tragedy on families and individuals. My heartfelt condolences go to them.

The tragedy of so many lives lost, and so many others turned upside down by the earthquake, is worsened by Bam's historic, cultural and architectural significance. Bam flourished as a site of pilgrimage and as a commercial and trading center on the famous Silk Road, which brought the treasures of the ancient Far East into what was then Persia, and on to the Mediterranean. The earthquake destroyed 90 percent of Bam. Now, it appears that much of this heritage may have been lost forever.

In the midst of so much devastation, relief workers from all over the world—including the United States—undoubtedly brought a considerable measure of relief. Their effectiveness was remarkable and exemplary. I thank them for their courageous work.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to express my deepest sympathy to the Iranian people for this terrible tragedy, and encourage this body to assist with the reconstruction of Bam and the anguish of its citizens. In addition, I call on people to continue to help raise money and send supplies to Bam, where the cost of reconstruction is estimated to be \$1 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution and urge its passage.

TRIBUTE TO NELLIE M. MCKAY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month of March, which has been designated Women's History Month, to pay tribute to Ms. Nellie McKay, an incredible woman who has dedicated most of her life to the service of others.

Nellie was born in 1929 to two hard-working parents, Polly and Alex Brown. She grew up with 10 brothers and sisters and learned the importance of sharing and support at a young age. Nellie has applied these values throughout her life as a community activist. New York was fortunate enough to become home to Nellie in 1950, when she immediately became a volunteer with the Baby Tracks program at the old Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx. She also lent her time and energy to the Prosthesis Clinic at St. Luke's Hospital, easing the spirits of patients there. Nellie was a key player in the immunization program at local public schools, which is a crucial initiative for underresourced schools, especially during that era.

Mr. Speaker, Nellie has always been committed to educating and fostering awareness in those around her. Having earned a Bachelor

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of Arts degree from Norwich University, she champions the importance of education. She has facilitated countless workshops on Black History to empower members of the Black community with knowledge of their history and culture as well as to inform members of other ethnic communities. Her main goal was to bring people together through learning.

Many young people and adults throughout the South Bronx consider Nellie a second mother. She has cared for hundreds of children in her home and coordinated numerous events with young people in the community. The fashion shows she organized with Mott Haven HeadStart children created wonderful memories for many. While Nellie may have a special place in her heart for children, she is also very concerned with general community development and giving everyone, children and adults alike, a sense of pride in their neighborhood. She has spearheaded the reparation of abandoned buildings and vacant lots and the repaving of roads and sidewalks. Knowing that she and her neighbors deserved quality public transportation service, she called for and received improvement of the local bus line. Nellie has also helped empower fellow Bronx residents by participating in a number of voter registration drives, encouraging her neighbors to make their voices heard.

Mr. Speaker, at 74 years of age, Nellie continues to work hard and is currently the chairperson of the Housing Committee of Planning Board I, assistant chairperson of the Patterson Volunteer Committee, a lifetime member of the National Council of Negro Women, and a member of the New York NAACP, as well as many other prestigious organizations.

In a day in age when many people do not pay attention to their neighbor, Nellie's selflessness is refreshing. For that reason, I ask that my colleagues join me honoring the contributions of this remarkable woman.

HONORING ST. SAVA SERBIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church as they join together in celebration of their 90th anniversary. They will be celebrating this very momentous and special occasion November 13 and 14, 2004.

St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church and School is known throughout the northwest Indiana community as "Serbian Gary" because of its continued efforts over the past 90 years to perpetuate the Serbian Orthodox faith and traditions. In 1914, the founders proclaimed their mission of their new church before the Secretary of State in Indianapolis, Indiana. Their mission is as follows: "The purpose of this parish is to preach the Word of God (the Lord Jesus) and take spiritual care of its members; to spread goodness, justice, brotherly love, and respect among its members."

After much debate and discussion on who would be their chosen patron saint, it was unanimously decided that the patron saint of the parish and church would be St. Sava, the First Serbian Archbishop and Enlightener. In

1917, the parishioners, although under tremendous economic hardships, built the first church and school on 20th Avenue and Connecticut Street in Gary. Mr. Michael Pupin, a well-known Serbian scientist, served as Kum at the consecration services. Immediately after the Great Depression, the parish built an even larger church, school, parish hall, and library on 13th Avenue and Connecticut in 1938. Mr. Nikola Tesla, a well-known Serbian inventor and scientist, served as Kum at the consecration services.

In 1969, after Chairman Nick Chabraja purchased 40 acres of property on 49th Avenue in Hobart, the parish built a new parish hall for their summer meetings and family picnics. In February of 1978, during the day of honor to St. Simeon and Ana, the church was completely destroyed by a terrible fire. Under the leadership of President Zivojin Cokic and many volunteers, they built another church in the small hall of the 49th Avenue building. In May of 1991, the parish celebrated a "new beginning" when a brand-new building was constructed. The new building opened in Merrillville, where relics which survived the fire were blessed and installed into the new church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church on their 90th anniversary. Throughout many hardships and trials, the members of St. Sava have dedicated themselves to providing a spiritual and guiding light through the protection of the Serbian Orthodox faith and traditions for all of northwest Indiana. Their constant dedication and commitment is worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL
SUNG EUN KIM (RET.)

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following statement signed by the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation as well as our dear friend and colleague, U.S. Representative CHARLES B. RANGEL of New York.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, Mr. RANGEL served in the U.S. Army from 1948 to 1952, during which time he fought in Korea and was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally thank my colleagues for signing this letter to Lieutenant General Sung Eun Kim (Ret.).

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March 5, 2004.

Lieutenant General Sung Eun Kim (Ret.) served as the 4th Commandant of the Republic of Korea Marines Corps (ROKMC) and as ROK Minister of National Defense from 1963 to 1968. In General Kim, the United States has a true friend.

General Kim is a patriot who cares dearly for freedom and has a strong personal affinity for America. He also is an ardent supporter of the Korean War Memorial of Central Massachusetts, having made a significant contribution toward its construction and then encouraged many other ROKMC Commandants and other military leaders to join him in support of the Memorial, which stands as a symbol of Freedom.

The alliance between the ROK Marine Corps and the U.S. Marine Corps was forged in the fires of the Korean War, where Commandant General Kim and his ROK Marines fought shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. Marines to repel brutal Communist aggression. According to historian Lieutenant Colonel James Durand, USMC, "... in the history of the ROK Marine Corps, General Kim is certainly in a class by himself. General Kim led ROK Marines in more battles than any other commander, including the amphibious landing at Tong Yong, which resulted in the first unit-wide promotions of the Korean War."

In a letter to Korean War Memorial Chairman Francis Carroll of Worcester, Massachusetts, General Kim wrote, "I want to thank the American people for all the sacrifices they have made for Korea. Had the United States not come to our aid 53 years ago, I would surely not be alive today to write this letter. . . . I know that South Korea would not be the prosperous, democratic nation it is today without the military, economic, and political assistance America has given us over the past half century."

Thank you General Kim, the ROK Marine Corps, and the people of the Republic of Korea for your friendship. We salute you.

Sincerely,
Charles B. Rangel, Edward J. Markey,
James P. McGovern, Barney Frank,
Richard E. Neal, Martin T. Meehan,
William D. Delahunt, Stephen F.
Lynch, John W. Olver, John F. Tierney,
Michael E. Capuano.

TRIBUTE TO MS. PALOMA
IZQUIRDO-HERNANDEZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month of March, which has been designated Women's History Month, to pay tribute to Ms. Paloma Izquierdo-Hernandez, a remarkable woman who has dedicated most of her life to the serving others.

Paloma, who was raised in the Bronx, New York, attended Boston College as an undergraduate and holds two masters degrees, a MS and a MPH from Teachers College, Columbia University and the School of Public Health, Columbia University, respectively. She is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer of Urban Health Plan Inc.

Paloma has been steadily associated with Urban Health Plan since 1980 and has risen to the top of the organization by dedicating over 23 years as the organization's Administrator, Executive Director and currently as its President and Chief Executive Officer. Throughout her tenure with Urban Health Plan, Ms. Hernandez has worked, despite monumental challenges, to deliver care in a culturally and linguistically competent manner while increasing the number of services offered to patients that her agency serves. She takes pride in acknowledging that despite the dramatic changes that she has witnessed both in her community and in the health care environment she has had the will to persist to fulfill the mission that was set before her.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that today over 30,000 community residents are provided with top quality health care and in the past

year over 120,000 primary and specialty care visits were rendered at Urban Health Plan. Paloma can also add to her list of achievements the successful relocation of Urban Health Plan's main site, a project she embarked upon over 15 years ago. Through her spearheading efforts, financing was secured through municipal tax free bonds as well as a New York City Council Grant. The new site is a 40,000 square foot state of the art medical facility that will further support Urban Health Plan's ability to continue to provide medical services to its community.

Paloma currently serves on multiple boards and organizations. She is a true example of the consistent and outstanding leadership that exist in our cities' community based organizations. For her service to the people of her community, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable woman.

TRIBUTE TO THE ACTION OF
NAVAL RESERVISTS IN BALTI-
MORE, MARYLAND

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the brave members of the U.S. Naval Reserve unit stationed at the Naval Reserve Center near Ft. McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland. The quick thinking of these Reservists saved the lives of 21 patrons of a Baltimore water taxi when a freak storm capsized their vessel on the afternoon of Saturday, March 6, 2004.

This tragic accident could have been much worse. Approximately 20 Naval Reservists were at the waterfront Reserve Center for weekend exercises when the storm struck. They saw the water taxi, Lady D, flip over and quickly rushed to their ACUV-27 vessel to help the victims of the overturned craft.

Their quick action saved almost all the victims of this tragedy. Unfortunately, one person died and three others are still missing. The survivors of the accident and Coast Guard officials credit the rescue efforts of the Naval Reservists as critical to saving most of those who were on the overturned water taxi in 44 degree waters.

I know, in some respects, it was pure luck that the water taxi capsized so near the Naval Reserve Center and that the Reservists were on site to carry out the rescue. But it also represents the quick action and outstanding bravery and courage of these Reservists.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting the members of the Naval Reserve, who, through quick thinking and action, saved the lives of 21 patrons of the Baltimore water taxi accident. While we honor the courage of these Naval Reservists, our hearts and prayers are with the victims of this tragedy and their families.

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to acknowledge 125 years of reliable, timely, and objective science that illustrates and enhances our understanding of the Earth, and serves the important needs of individuals and communities across this great land.

The United States Geological Survey has an outstanding history of public service and scientific breakthroughs. It has been at the forefront of advances in our understanding of the Earth, its processes, and its resources. Scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey pioneered hydrologic techniques for gauging the impact of floods and modeling the flow of complex ground-water systems. The astronauts who landed on the Moon in 1969 were trained in geology by the USGS.

Innovative ventures with the private sector have given the world access to digital images of neighborhoods and communities in one of the largest data sets ever made available online. Modern-day understanding of the formation and location of energy and mineral resource deposits is rooted in fundamental scientific breakthroughs by USGS scientists. Their biologists revolutionized thinking about managing wildlife resources, providing a sound scientific basis that lets waterfowl conservation and recreational hunting work in tandem as adaptive management, not as conflicting interests. Advances in seismology are making early warnings of earthquakes a reality that will give the needed alert time to save lives. The future of the global community presents infinite opportunities for the science of the USGS to continue to make substantive and life-enhancing contributions to the betterment of the nation and the world.

I congratulate the United States Geological Survey on its 125th anniversary. By commemorating this date, I hope we will come to recognize the crucial services that this institution continues to provide this nation.

The United States Geological Survey is a vital Federal science agency that is headquartered in my District in Northern Virginia; however, Members should know that this agency has an important presence in every state of the union.

How has 125 years of independent science benefited our nation? It has given us an extensive record of our land and resources, which allows us to realize and track the changes in our land, water, and wildfire. It has provided a wealth of long-term data and research, which continues to serve thousands of government agencies, companies, non-profit organizations, recreational groups, and individual Americans. And it has given us scientific expertise and understanding that we can count on to be accurate and up to date.

Since its inception, the United States Geological Survey has become the premier science organization for the nation, covering all of the natural science disciplines (biology, geography, geology, and hydrology) in every state. This expansive coverage provides us

with the comprehensive information we need to tackle many complicated issues in many geographical areas.

As an unbiased science agency, the United States Geological Survey often serves the needs of the nation behind the scenes. Whether it's research on windborne dusts, mercury contamination, or West Nile Virus used to protect public health; or natural hazards assessments used to ensure public safety; or the energy and mineral resources, water and biological information, and geologic mapping and geospatial information used to serve our economy, for 125 years, the United States Geological Survey has provided the science that serves as the basis for our most important decisions.

It's time we congratulated those whose labor provides us with the information we need to manage our resources and safeguard society. I am delighted to have this opportunity to bring attention to the work of the United States Geological Survey and showcase its remarkable history. I urge you to support this resolution, thereby confirming our appreciation for their ongoing work that has served the health, safety, and prosperity of the United States for 125 years.

In addition to Congressman James P. Moran, the following members are original sponsors of the House Resolution Congratulating the United States Geological Survey on its 125th Anniversary: Barbara Cubin, Tom Davis, Norm Dicks, Anna G. Eshoo, Ron Kind, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Zoe Lofgren, Ralph Regula, Nick Smith, Bill Young, and Sherwood Boehlert.

RESOLUTION

Whereas March 3, 2004 will mark the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of the United States Geological Survey;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey has become the Nation's premiere earth and biological science agency;

Whereas during its 125-year history, the United States Geological Survey has been the birthplace of a number of other Federal agencies, including the Reclamation Service (later renamed the Bureau of Reclamation) in 1902, the Forest Service in 1905, the United States Bureau of Mines in 1910, the Grazing Service (later renamed the Bureau of Land Management) in 1934, and the Minerals Management Service in 1982;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey has been a widely respected source of relevant and objective science to address the Nation's diverse natural resource issues;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey continues to serve the Nation as an independent fact-finding agency that collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific information and understanding about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems;

Whereas a hallmark value of the United States Geological Survey to the Nation is its ability to carry out studies on a national scale and to sustain long-term monitoring and assessment of natural hazards and natural resource conditions;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey is an agency of the Federal Government with no regulatory or land management responsibilities and is thus a trusted entity to provide impartial science that serves the needs of the Nation; and

Whereas the United States Geological Survey has a scientific presence in every State and Territory of the United States and serves the Nation's extensive and diverse needs for objective scientific knowledge and understanding; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the United States Geological Survey on its 125th anniversary; and

(2) expresses strong support for the United States Geological Survey as it serves the Nation by providing timely, relevant, and objective scientific information which helps to describe and understand the Earth, minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters, manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources, and enhance and protect the quality of life of all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO MS. HEIDI HYNES

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month of March, which has been designated Women's History Month, to pay tribute to Ms. Heidi Hynes, a remarkable woman who has dedicated most of her life to the service of others.

A native of Kansas City, MO, Heidi moved to the Bronx, New York, to attend Fordham University in the fall of 1986. After graduating with a B.A. in philosophy she became an associate of the Friars of the Atonement and subsequently volunteered for a year of service in Jamaica. In Jamaica, Heidi worked at a preschool, distributed food, tutored, provided assistance at a local clinic and did other activities related to the Friars Parish. Upon the completion of a year of volunteer work with the Friars Parish, Heidi returned to New York and worked as a full time volunteer with the Catholic Worker on the lower East Side. In this role, she lived with former homeless men and women, ran a soup-line, assisted with the distribution of their newspaper and was active in peace and justice campaigns.

In 1995, after marrying Bryan Hynes, a man she met while at the Catholic Worker, Heidi began working as a community organizer for the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition. In that capacity she organized tenants, homeowners, and park groups in the Fordham Bedford community. In the fall of 1997, Heidi began working as the Executive Director of the Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center in the Bronx. Through her work providing and developing youth and family programs she has learned a great deal about the Croton Community, non-profit management and youth development.

Mr. Speaker, such selflessness must not go unnoticed. Since graduating from college, Heidi has dedicated herself to uplifting others. For that reason, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable woman.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND IN SUPPORT OF THE WARTIME PARITY AND JUSTICE ACT OF 2003

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to reflect on our past as we

pave the way to a brighter future. The Japanese-American community recognizes a National Day of Remembrance each year to educate the public about the lessons learned from the internment camp experience during World War II to ensure that it never happens again. The Day of Remembrance commemorates February 19, 1942, the day on which President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which eliminated the civil liberties of 120,000 people of Japanese descent and sent our country down a shameful path of race-based discrimination, veiled by the fog of war. I ask for my colleagues' support for House Resolution 56 (H. Res. 56); and I commend my friend from California, Congressman MIKE HONDA, for offering it and for his leadership in championing awareness of the Japanese-American internment. H. Res. 56 recognizes the historical significance of February 19 and expresses congressional support for the Japanese-American, German-American, and Italian-American communities in their goals to raise public awareness of Day of Remembrance events.

The force of wartime hysteria darkened the light of justice and reasonable people suddenly embarked on an unreasonable course. Indeed, America was engaged in a monumental struggle as our soldiers engaged the enemy in the European and Pacific Theatre. Here in the United States, many citizens had faces that looked like that of the enemy. Without any evidence, fear was mounting, and the patriotism of these Japanese Americans was questioned. Some worried that they were intent on doing harm against the very flag they saluted. Decades later, history vindicated these loyal Americans as not even a single documented case of sabotage or espionage was committed by an American of Japanese ancestry during that time.

What our Nation found through the disinfected of time, those who endured internment knew all along. Surrounded by armed guards behind a prison fence, mothers thought of their sons who fought for the freedom of the Nation that denied them of their own liberty.

Indeed today history shows that the Japanese-American soldiers of the 442nd combat regiment fought honorably and bravely for ideals they knew our Nation had not yet afforded to their own families back home. Still, they were worth fighting for. And this regiment would become the most decorated group of soldiers in American history as they proved their devotion to our Nation fighting in both the European and Pacific theatres. It took more than 50 years, but finally in 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded 22 of these heroes with the Medal of Honor.

In 1983, a Presidential Commission concluded that the internment was the result of both racism and wartime hysteria. Five years later, then President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act into law that provided an official apology and redress to most of those confined in U.S. internment camps during World War II. This was the culmination of half a century of struggle to bring justice to those for whom it was denied. I am proud that our Nation did the right thing. But 16 years after the passage of the CLA, we still have unfinished work to be done to rectify and close this regrettable chapter in our Nation's history.

I introduced bipartisan legislation, the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2003 (H.R. 779) to finish the remaining work of redress. While

most Americans are aware of the internment of Japanese Americans, few know about our government's activities in other countries resulting from prejudice held against people of Japanese ancestry. Recorded thoroughly in government files, the U.S. Government involved itself in the expulsion and internment of an estimated 2,000 people of Japanese descent who lived in various Latin American countries. Uprooted from their homes and forced into the United States, these civilians were robbed of their freedom as they were kidnapped from nations not even directly involved in World War II. These individuals are still waiting for equitable redress, and justice cries out for them to receive it. That is why I introduced H.R. 779, to finally turn the last page in this chapter of our Nation's history, so that we not only remember that our country took away civil rights from innocent people from other countries, but that we now have recognized the wrong of our actions and have taken steps to provide equitable redress.

This bill provides redress to every Japanese Latin American individual forcibly removed and interned in the United States. These people paid a tremendous price during one of our Nation's most trying times. Indeed, America accomplished much during that great struggle. As we celebrate our great achievements as a Nation let us also recognize our errors and join together as a Nation to correct those mistakes. My legislation is the right thing to do to affirm our commitment to democracy and the rule of law.

In addition, the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2003 provides relief to Japanese-Americans confined in this country but who never received redress under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 given technicalities in the original law. Our laws must always establish justice. They should never deny it. That is why these provisions ensure that every American who suffered the same injustices will receive the same justice. Finally, my legislation will reauthorize the educational mandate in the 1988 act, which was never fulfilled. This will etch this chapter of our nation's history into our national conscience for generations to come as a reminder never to repeat it again.

Recently, in Los Angeles I was fortunate to join with about 300 individuals to commemorate the Day of Remembrance in Los Angeles at the historic Japanese American National Museum. Included in the Los Angeles Day of Remembrance program was the screening of a film, "Stand Up for Justice," which tells the story of Ralph Lazo, a Mexican-Irish American student at Belmont High School in downtown Los Angeles. Even in 1941, the school had an ethnically diverse population, and the film depicts Ralph's anger at the pain suffered by his Japanese American friend, Jimmy Matsuoka. Jimmy and his family are forced to sell their belongings and "evacuate" to a remote concentration camp. At the age of 16 Ralph voluntarily accompanied his Japanese American friends to Manzanar Internment Camp, where he spent 2½ years. Ralph remained a dear friend to the Japanese community and his loss was sorely felt in 1992 when friends mourned the death of their loyal friend. He had stood by Japanese Americans during the difficult times at Manzanar and throughout the campaign for redress, and he demonstrated that you don't have to be Japanese American to stand up for what is right.

At the forefront of this fight for justice, there are Members of Congress, the community and

individuals like Ralph Lazo, giving a voice to those who were wronged in the past. Let us all remember, that the fight for justice for Japanese internees is one that is being fought by the entire community regardless of their ethnicity. We must all "Stand Up for Justice."

Mr. Speaker, let us renew our resolve to build a better future for our community as we dedicate ourselves to remembering how we compromised liberty in the past. Doing so will help us to guard it more closely in the future. As we commemorate the Day of Remembrance, we must pass H. Res. 56, in support of Japanese-American, German-American, and Italian American communities in their recognizing of this historical day. I also look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2003.

TRIBUTE TO THE GIRL SCOUTS OF
RED RIVER VALLEY

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Girl Scout Council of Red River Valley.

With more than 3.8 million members, the Girl Scouts have served as one of the finest organizations dedicated solely to girls. For over 90 years, the Girl Scouts have instilled leadership skills and strong values, while helping girls realize their true potential and self worth.

The Girl Scout Council of Red River Valley comprises 13 counties in northeast Texas and southeast Oklahoma. These include Bryan, Choctaw, McCurtain, and Pushmataha Counties in Oklahoma and Camp, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties in Texas.

Over 2,500 girls are able to participate in year-round activities offered by the Red River Valley Council. These activities foster skills in business, communication, the environment, the humanities, science, sports, and personal health. Programs offered during the school year include the Engineering for Girls Club which gives 4th through 8th graders the opportunity to participate in activities relating to science, math, technology, and engineering. During the summer, girls can learn traditional outdoor skills at Camp Gambill, a 54-acre facility located in Sumner, TX.

Mr. Speaker, as the Girl Scout Council of Red River Valley continues to grow and expand, I want to commend the council for its tireless work expanding opportunities for our girls in east Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MS. IRIS FERNANDEZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month of March, which has been designated Women's History Month, to pay tribute to Ms. Iris Fernandez, a phenomenal woman who has devoted her life to enhancing the lives of others.

Iris, a native of Puerto Rico moved to New York at the age of 18. While attending college in New York she began serving her community as a youth advocate by helping children with their schoolwork. Later, as a parent, Iris continued advocating for children's education as a school board member. She chaired the District 7 School Boards Facilities where she brought together the Parks Department, the Department of Education Facilities and CPB No. 1 to build speed bumps around the school where speeding cars were a concern. In addition she orchestrated the building of a fence around P.S. 49 which potentially saved the lives of many children as it once prevented a man with a gun from entering the school premises.

Mr. Speaker, Iris has a long history of service to her community. She is the President and Founder of the Community Enhancement Organization which serves to create new initiatives to help families move from welfare to work and serves to help community residents find decent apartments or become home owners. If that is not enough, she also created the Youth Advisory Council to address the issues that the youth in her organization face on a daily basis. Ms. Fernandez has also demonstrated that she is a capable business woman. In 1989 she became a financial officer for a home care agency named P.R.H.A.S., Inc. During her fourteen years of service she was instrumental in moving their revenue from \$7 million to an impressive \$14 million. The works of this young woman has not gone unnoticed. In 2002, her community elected her to serve as Assembly Female District Leader for the 84th district.

Mr. Speaker, for her willingness to go beyond the call of duty in service to her community, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this remarkable woman.

HONORING HERBERT KURZ ON HIS
84TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family and friends who have gathered to extend my very best wishes to a man whose lifetime of accomplishments are a true reflection of what a business and community leader should be—Herbert Kurz—as he celebrates his 84th birthday.

He has dedicated both his professional and personal life to the betterment of his community and to the promotion of equality for all Americans. Herb once told me his faith was in human beings and he has spent a lifetime honoring that faith. His success, both as a businessman and activist, has been based on this mantra and through his good work he has made a real difference in the lives of many.

Chairman and CEO of Presidential Life Insurance Company of Nyack, New York, Herb has combined a shrewd business sense and responsible business conscience to make his business successful and achieve national renown. Honored at the White House Conference on Corporate Citizenship in 1996, Presidential Life has long been known for its commitment to hiring both women and minori-

ties. When he started his business forty years ago, Herb made it a practice to give the first chance at a position to a qualified minority person. In a time when women and minorities had difficulty in securing a place in the business world, Herb opened the doors of opportunity to hundreds—a practice which he continues today.

In addition to his role in building a business that is open-minded in its employment and conservative in its protection of its shareholders investments, Herb's true passion has been as a community leader and social activist.

It is a passion that began in his teenage years when he helped organize a union of hotel and restaurant workers in the Catskills and was re-invigorated upon his return from his service in the United States Air Force during World War II when a very personal experience changed his life.

Herb's uncle, Frederic Ewen, was a popular professor of English at Brooklyn College. Professor Ewen's commitment to the freedom of thought, as well as his political activism during the 1930s, led to his becoming a victim of the academic witch-hunts of the McCarthy Era. When he refused to cooperate with the House UnAmerican Activities Committee in 1952, Professor Ewen was forced to resign his position and was subsequently blacklisted. It was his uncle's tragic experience that led Herb to become one of our nation's leading philanthropists in support of civil liberties. In fact, just four years ago, he established the Frederic Ewen Academic Freedom Collection at New York University. The collection, the first of its kind in the United States, focuses on the rights of teachers and research workers to investigate their subjects of expertise without fear of reprimand or dismissal and the right to provide students and the entire academic community with knowledge and information pertaining to any controversial social, economic, or political issue without interference or penalty.

Herb has spent over half his life making a difference in the lives of others. Whether supporting the arts, speaking out against bigotry, enhancing a community hospital for the entire community, or channeling his anger at government corruption into electoral action, Herb's compassion and leadership have left an indelible mark on his community and our nation. For his endless contributions and uncompromising spirit, I am proud to stand today to join his wife, Edythe; his children, Leonard and Ellen; his grandchildren Tommy and Sophie, family and friends to pay tribute to my dear friend, Herbert Kurz. Happy 84th birthday!

HONORING THOMAS PFINGSTEN

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Pfingsten, Library Director at Portland State University.

Mr. Pfingsten is retiring after 24 years of dedicated service to Portland State University and to Oregon. I join with his colleagues at PSU, those in the Oregon University System, and his friends in the City of Portland in recognizing him for his leadership, his commitment

to providing educational opportunities to students, and his work with PSU to help this important institution grow into a national model of an urban university.

Tom Pflingsten has served at Portland State University since 1980. During that time, the Millar Library has steadily increased its collections holdings from 650,000 volumes in 1980 to the present day 1.3 million volumes.

In addition, during Tom's tenure, there were three major library improvements: (1) an expanded and improved library building that is both functional and architecturally stunning; (2) a major reorganization of the way in which the library internally functions including the creation of a new research and learning center; and (3) a transition from paper systems to electronic media in nearly all aspects of library organization, communication, and presentation to students and faculty. All of these accomplishments have been most impressive due to the fact that his era at Portland State has been one of great financial challenges.

Tom's modest, self-effacing style obscures a canny ability to find money for important projects and to spend it prudently and effectively. He has been a tremendous and tireless advocate for the Millar Library and his efforts, and those of his fine staff, have allowed it to keep pace with Oregon's fastest growing, and now largest, university.

In an atmosphere of constant fiscal challenge, Tom Pflingsten and the Millar Library—like Portland State University itself—have triumphed over adversity and provided high quality service to our students, faculty and community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that I have had the opportunity to work with and know Tom Pflingsten. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing him and his family the best as he enters a much-deserved retirement after a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO MS. MARTHA
WATFORD

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month of March, which has been designated Women's History Month, to pay tribute to Ms. Martha Watford, an incredible woman who has dedicated most her life to the service of others.

For 38 years, Martha has been an active member of the community. She has served as parent, staff and currently Executive Director of the La Peninsula Community Organization. Serving over one thousand families annually, it is one of the largest community based organizations in the South Bronx. In her position as Executive Director, she has been responsible for expanding what was once a two room operation to what is now a facility with six centers and 33 classrooms. This new facility is due to open in September 2004 and will aptly be named the Martha Watford Center.

Mr. Speaker, Martha is always eager to incorporate new initiatives into the program in order ensure that the families and children that her organization serves are given every opportunity to achieve all that they possibly can. As a result of her unyielding commitment to her

community, Martha was the recipient of the Robin Hood Foundation Heroes Award in 1996. She leads her staff by demonstrating unflinching strength and passion in serving the families of our community.

For her commitment to the families of our community, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this remarkable woman.

CONGRATULATING COMMON
THREADS AWARD WINNERS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Susan Cohen, Parry Mead Murray, Margo Souza and Barbara Vineyard, the recipients of the 2004 Sacramento Valley Common Threads Award. This award is presented to women in agriculture who have made a remarkable contribution to their community through volunteer work and philanthropy.

Susan Cohen has been involved in numerous agricultural activities throughout her life. Since 1989, she has held the position of the Solano County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights & Measures. She serves as a key part of the regulatory system that promotes and protects California's \$28 billion agricultural industry. Susan was Monterey County's Senior Deputy Agricultural Commissioner in the Salinas Valley, where she started out as a Produce Inspector and worked her way up to a wide variety of regulatory inspections. She also administered the county Agricultural Advisory Committee, appointed by the Board of Supervisors, and became a point person for minor crop pesticide regulations.

Parry Mead Murray has been active in the grape industry for over 20 years. She served as Mead Ranch Vineyard Manager for 22 years and assisted with the conservation easement placed on the property. Parry currently sits as board member of the Napa Valley Grape Growers Association. She serves as Vice President of the Giles W. & Elise G. Mead Foundation, whose contributions go toward conservation and resource management issues. Parry is also a committee member of the Archer Taylor Preserve Land Trust of Napa County, a committee that targets the planning and implementation of long-term property management for one of the oldest and largest strands of Redwood trees.

Margo Souza has been dedicated to the dairy industry her entire life. She has spent the past 20 years as a successful manager in all facets of dairy farming. Margo played a key role in securing a \$100,000 grant from the Buy California initiative to place milk vending machines in selected high schools. She was chair of the Western United Dairymen's 2003 Convention, the year of their biggest trade show ever. Margo also served as the first woman president for the Growers Harvesting Committee in 1996. In addition, she has had several professional appointments that include the California Agriculture and Water Committee in 1999, the California Milk Advisory Board since 1997, and the Western United Dairymen since 1994, among others.

Barbara Vineyard has been an active leader of 4-H for 47 years. She was on the 4-H

County Council serving as president, secretary, and area coordinator. Barbara has chaired many County and Regional events and served on the Regional and State Leaders Councils, as well as director of the California 4-H Foundation. She is chairman of the Mt. Pleasant Hall Committee and assists with fundraisers for the community hall, which is owned by the Placer County Farm Bureau. Barbara also helped form the Placer County Farm Bureau Young People's organization which she remains active in today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the 2004 Sacramento Valley Common Threads Award winners. These women have shown outstanding involvement, not only in agriculture, but also in strengthening their respective communities. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing these honorees a bright future and continued success.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING
MR. ENZO "TONY" MUSOLINO

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to remember and honor an outstanding citizen, Mr. Enzo "Tony" Musolino from Granite Bay, California, who passed away on Wednesday, February 25, 2004, after a year-long bout with leukemia. He was 73 years old.

Tony was born in Brooklyn, New York, on July 15, 1930. The only child of Ernesto and Carmela Musolino, he moved to San Francisco with his family in 1940, marking the beginning of his life in Northern California.

In 1952, Tony began a life-long career in the real estate profession. He was a real estate agent, builder, and mortgage broker working throughout the Bay Area, starting in San Francisco and expanding into the Santa Clara and San Jose areas. However, in January 1976, he moved his family to Granite Bay, then a rural community in the beautiful foothills of Placer County. As it turned out, his family was among the first of many people who have migrated from the Bay Area to the greater Sacramento region. Tony's vision for his new home helped transform the community into what it is today.

Tony envisioned the development of custom homes on large lots surrounded by open natural spaces. His residential accomplishments included the development of Hidden Lakes Estates, Shelborne Estates, and the premier neighborhood of Los Lagos. He also succeeded in commercial development ventures in Washington State, the greater Sacramento area, and California's Great Central Valley. Nevertheless, he will likely be best remembered for his exclusive residential developments in Granite Bay.

Mr. Speaker, Tony, who had been semi-retired for several years, turned the management of the family business over to his children to enjoy other aspects of life. He took pleasure in several hobbies, including golf and weight training. As the son of Italian immigrants, he relished his heritage, retaining fluency in the Italian language and passion for authentic Italian cuisine. He even found enjoyment in collecting Italian sports cars, including several Maseratis and a Ferrari.

However, Tony's truest love remained his lovely wife, Barbara, with whom he enjoyed traveling to secondary homes in Kauai and Indian Wells. He is also survived by his daughter, Gina Goldberg; sons Robert and Michael; and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, today, I join with Tony Musolino's family, friends, and community to commemorate his life of hard work, good citizenship, and family commitment. May he rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING DR. RONALD M. BENSON

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Dr. Ronald M. Benson as he ends his term as chairman of the Board of Professional Standards of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Benson received his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School. He also graduated from the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute and is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in both general and child psychiatry. After completing his residency and fellowship, Dr. Benson served as chief of Child Psychiatry and Outpatient Services and Mental Health Clinic at Sheppard Air Force Base, where he received the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal. Dr. Benson also held several teaching positions at institutions, including the University of Michigan, Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute, and Wayne State University. He published both his own book and videotapes, and wrote chapters in many other books, as well as articles in numerous distinguished scientific journals.

Dr. Benson contributes immeasurably to his southeast Michigan community. He served as a consultant to programs such as the Boys' Training School, the Child Psychoanalytic Study Program at the University of Michigan, the Detroit Psychiatric Institute, and the State of Michigan Bureau of Health Services. In addition, Dr. Benson served on several committees within the International Psychoanalytic Association, American Psychoanalytic Association, and the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute. Dr. Benson continues to contribute to his field and community through his private practice, which he has run since 1970, and active participation in both the International and the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institutes.

Dr. Benson is a highly esteemed doctor in the field of psychiatry. He deserves great recognition for his dedicated service to his community and his country. Southeast Michigan should be proud to have Dr. Benson as a member of our community. I hope Dr. Benson and his family will be both happy and prosperous in the years to come.

NAMPA AND MERIDIAN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, we in Idaho place a high value on our water, and we understand the critical role that water delivery has played in making the arid West bloom. With that in mind, I am honored to extend my congratulations and best wishes to the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District on the occasion of its centennial, marking 100 years of service to the Treasure Valley on March 9, 2004.

The Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District is the largest entity of its kind in the Treasure Valley, delivering irrigation water to 64,000 acres of farmland and providing water to pressurized urban irrigation systems serving more than 9,500 parcels of land, including residential lots, parks, and commercial areas. The district supplied 177,000 acre feet of water to water users in its system in 2003. Economists estimate the water brought a direct agricultural economic return to the Treasure Valley of approximately \$10 million.

On this historic occasion, it is important to pay tribute to the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District and the people responsible for its maintenance and operations for their countless contributions to water users. But I also want to express my gratitude to the district for the cultural, social, and economic contributions it makes to the broader community, to the Treasure Valley, and all of Idaho.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ROSE MERRY MYERS DARDEN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Rose Merry Myers Darden, who died on February 20, 2004. Ms. Darden was a lifelong community activist and defender of less fortunate citizens. She was married to William (Boone) Darden, former police chief of Riviera Beach, Florida. Her husband, the first black man to become police chief of a major Florida city, preceded her in death.

After her husband's passing, Rose threw herself entirely into community work. A caring and compassionate individual, she sold her jewelry and her automobile to raise the necessary funds to open St. Matthew's House, a shelter for homeless veterans. It later became St. Matthew's Safe House for Women, where many former drug abusers sought refuge and respite from their troubles while they worked to turn their lives around.

A person of principle, Rose Darden gave up an opportunity to receive a \$250,000 federal grant for expansion of St. Matthew's because she felt the guidelines would restrict her efforts to assist the women. She commented at the time, "If we can't do the job the way it should be done. . . . I don't feel we should take the money." I agree wholeheartedly with her sentiment.

I always had the greatest respect for Ms. Darden and her late husband. Her passing

leaves us all poorer, and I challenge everyone who knew and loved her and the many whose lives she touched to continue the wonderful work she did.

I offer my sincerest condolences to her family. We can all take comfort in knowing that her spirit will guide us always.

HONORING ROBERT ANGELL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Robert Angell, who has received the 2003 Volunteer of the Year award for exemplary volunteer service with the Friends of The Sunshine Place. He will be awarded at a reception on April 22nd in Modesto, California.

Mr. Angell is involved in numerous volunteer activities. His most recent activities include facilitating a Dual Diagnosis group, which helps people with substance abuse problems and mental illness. Robert is also a member of the Mental Health Board and the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Quality Improvement Committee. Amongst his volunteer accomplishments, Mr. Angell has returned to college with the goal of working in the mental health field so that he can continue to assist others.

The Sunshine Place is a socialization/recreational drop-in center that is run under the patronage of the Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. They offer recreational opportunities for a variety of populations, ranging from chronic mentally ill adults and the physically disabled, to the homeless in their community. They operate with a minimal staff and depend on volunteers for all of their day-to-day functions. The Volunteer of the Year is selected by the people who donate their time to The Sunshine Place, and this year Robert's peers selected him for this honor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert Angell, The Sunshine Place's 2003 Volunteer of the Year honoree. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Robert many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING VAN APPLIGATE

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Van Applegate, a senior at Jefferson County High School in my district. Van, this week, will become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in scouting.

The Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, which I proudly represent, is home to a great deal of history. Van restored and rededicated the gravesite of Private Luke Quinn, who was killed during John Brown's raid of 1859. Brown's raid was a significant event in our Nation's history, and in the history of eastern West Virginia. Van is to be congratulated for his hard work in restoring this piece of Civil War-era history.

Van cleaned the gravestone and installed a Marine Corps flag as part of his project. He then staged a reenactment of Quinn's funeral, drawing nearly 100 residents to take part in the educational event.

In addition to scouting, Van is editor of his school newspaper, sports editor of the yearbook, executive producer of the student-run television station, and vice-president of the Jefferson County High Student Government Association.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Van Aplegate for his commitment to historical preservation in West Virginia and congratulate him on becoming an Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY OF HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the American Legion Family of Hudson post #48 in New Hampshire. The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Junior Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion successfully hosted their Sixth Annual Halloween Haunted House to raise money for the community and to collect non-perishable items for local food baskets. Numerous volunteers bonded together over the course of 800 hours in efforts to successfully horrify all of the 787 "victims" who turned out for the event. Those who dared to enter were also able to munch on snacks and sample a taste of the witch's brew.

Proceeds for the Haunted House exceeded \$1,500 and will go directly back into the community for a variety of programs, ranging from scholarships for local students to cleaning area highways. They were also able to collect over 200 non-perishable items that will be distributed in food baskets for those less fortunate. Although the evening was cloaked in fright and horror, the kindness and thoughtfulness of a caring community shone through.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Hudson American Legion Family. Their dedication and devotion to helping their community is an example we can all be proud of.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR H.R. 3213, THE COMMISSION ON THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND REVIEW OF FEDERAL AGENCIES

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 3213, the Commission on the Accountability and Review of Federal Agencies (CARFA) Act.

The use of hard-earned taxpayer dollars on duplicative, inefficient, and failed federal agencies and programs is a serious problem facing our Nation today. Over and over, we see programs that are authorized by Congress become institutionalized; and then, though no longer necessary, they become a permanent

fixture receiving more tax dollars year after year. If we could cut out unnecessary programs, we would make a strong statement that we are serious about controlling government spending.

On October 1, 2003, Congressman TODD TIAHRT introduced the Commission on the Accountability and Review of Federal Agencies Act. This legislation would establish a presidentially-appointed commission to review domestic agencies and programs, making recommendations for the elimination of unnecessary programs. Congress would subsequently take an up-or-down vote on these recommendations.

As a strong supporter of eliminating wasteful spending, today I rise to add my support to this proposal by cosponsoring this important legislation. If enacted, the Act will help to ensure fiscal responsibility and accountability in the federal government. While Congress should always be dedicated to ensuring the maximum benefit of every tax dollar that comes to Washington, now more than ever Congress must take steps to assure taxpayers that their hard-earned money is being well spent.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of the Commission on the Accountability and Review of Federal Agencies Act.

RECOGNIZING FRANK DEL OLMO

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following on behalf of myself, Ms. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. DENNIS CARDOZA, Ms. GRACE NAPOLITANO, and Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ. We stand to recognize the life of Mr. Frank del Olmo, a hero in the Latino community who recently passed away. He was not only a leader for Latinos in the State of California, but also an exceptional human being who exemplified the best in American journalism.

Mr. Del Olmo was an Associate Editor and columnist for the Los Angeles Times. An award-winning and nationally recognized writer, he wrote passionately about Latino issues in California for almost 34 years. More than an Editor and columnist, he was a politically driven activist whose powerful penmanship made him an innovative voice for Latinos, immigrants, and the less fortunate. He paved the way for other journalists and was highly revered by his colleagues for his pioneering work on the Latino community and the City of Los Angeles.

Representing a city with a large but much ignored Latino population, Mr. Del Olmo gained recognition for educating readers throughout the nation about issues affecting Latinos. He was honored with the Pulitzer Prize for Meritorious Public Service in 1984 for the L.A. Times series "Southern California's Latino Community." He was a Nieman fellow at Harvard University in 1987 and was inducted into the National Association of Hispanic Journalists' Hall of Fame in 2002. In 1972, he was a founding member of the California Chicano News Media Association. And in 1975, he won an Emmy Award for writing

The Unwanted, a documentary on illegal immigration.

Del Olmo was a bitter opponent of Proposition 187, a controversial California initiative in 1994, which denied basic government benefits to undocumented immigrants. Introduced by then Governor Pete Wilson and widely regarded as a discriminatory initiative, Mr. Del Olmo wrote a strong editorial piece, denouncing Governor Wilson and calling Proposition 187 "the mean-spirited and unconstitutional ballot initiative that would deprive 'apparent illegal aliens' of public health services and immigrant children of public education." He also helped correct injustices in Los Angeles County by uncovering corruption in municipal governments and touched the lives of countless families through his heart-felt columns on his son's battle with autism.

Born in Los Angeles in 1948 and a graduate of California State University, Northridge, Mr. Del Olmo suffered a heart attack and died on February 19, 2004. His wife, Magdalena, a daughter, Valentina, and his son Frankie survive him.

He will always be remembered for both his powerful voice and creative ability in depicting the best and, at times, the worst in today's society. Frank del Olmo will forever live in the hearts of L.A. Times readers, will forever be a hero in the Latino community, and will forever be a role model for future Latino leaders. We will miss Frank dearly and may he rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO MS. PATRICIA E. CLARK

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a constituent of mine, Ms. Patricia E. Clark, and commend her on her diligent and faithful 50-year-long service to the Federal Government.

Ms. Clark began her government career with the Department of the Navy, Washington, DC, in April 1954. Nine years later, in April 1963, she transferred to the Federal Aviation Administration and started work at the Boston Air Traffic Control Center, located in Nashua, New Hampshire, on the day it opened. She has worked at Boston Center continuously since that time. Currently she is the lead Aviation Assistant and works directly for the Air Traffic Manager.

Her outstanding work ethic and dedication to the FAA has earned Patty awards from the FAA Administrator, the Director of Air Traffic, and the Regional Air Traffic Division Manager. For the past 41 years, Patricia Clark has been an integral member of the Boston Center team.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Patricia E. Clark for her devoted service. Her dedication and commitment continues to provide safe and efficient air traffic service to the United States.

THE LIFE OF PHIL ROOS

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a beloved member of the Dubuque, Iowa community. Phil Roos was truly a special teacher and coach and he was tragically taken from us at the age of 57. Phil leaves not only the lives of his family, but of those many students and athletes whose lives he touched for over 30 years. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Phil and ask that the attached article from the Dubuque Telegraph Herald be placed along with my comments in the RECORD.

ROOS MADE EVERYONE FEEL SPECIAL

(By Bill Speltz)

Phil Roos had a special gift.

Oh sure, he was an excellent math teacher and tennis coach and one of the founding fathers of a strong intramural program at Hempstead. He was also a darn good athlete in his day, especially with a racket in his hand (legend has it he'd play his students in a game of badminton to 50, spot them 49 points and still win).

But there are a lot of good teachers, coaches and athletes out there. The fact Roos was all three is impressive, but it all seems small compared to his finest quality as a human being.

Phil was special because he made you feel good about yourself. He made you feel like you were an extraordinary person, and it motivated you to prove him right.

How do you replace someone like that? How do you make sense of Roos dying of brain cancer Sunday at the age of 57?

You don't.

"He had such a wonderful way of bonding with kids," said Natalie Nemmers, Roos' assistant coach for the boys tennis team the past three seasons. "We kind of built this family, and he would've done anything for the boys, because he was so proud of them."

"He used to get so nervous before meets. But he would never show it. He just wanted so much for the boys, and they knew he loved them."

Roos' Hempstead family stretched far beyond tennis players in his 33 years at the school. Between his teaching and an intramural program that has about 500 participants annually, countless young adults were touched by this upbeat, kind-hearted man.

"What a tremendous loss," Hempstead athletic director Harry Robbins said. "His students and his athletes just loved him, and the reason they loved him is because he was able to connect with them."

"The best way I can describe Phil Roos is he stood for all the right things in life. Great father, husband, role model for young people. Students would seek him out because he always had time to talk about whatever they wanted to talk about, just trying to help."

For all his tennis coaching success, Roos' most admirable moment may have come three years ago, when he ended a 15-year coaching retirement to help revive the Mustangs' struggling boys program. Not many would make the same move, mainly because tennis takes a ton of time and weather conditions in the spring are often cold and windy.

Concerned about all the time he would spend away from his family, Roos made Hempstead tennis a family affair. His son, seventh-grader Andrew, joined the team for practice every day. His "other" sons drank

in every bit of advice Phil offered, and the result is a program that's back on the upswing.

"A lot of times, on school (athletic) trips, guys will be fighting for the back seat of the bus because they never want to sit by the coach of the team," Hempstead senior Jason Burkle said. "For me, it was just the opposite with Coach Roos. I wanted to sit up front."

"What I liked most is the way he controlled the team, yet he still knew how to have a lot of fun."

For those who knew him, Roos' kindness was infectious and his calm demeanor admirable. Just ask Craig Olson, Hempstead girls tennis coach and Roos' former rival as leader of the Dubuque Senior boys tennis program in the 1980s.

"With him, there was no screaming or yelling, and he was the same way with his teaching," Olson said. "He'd inspire you."

"I was just tickled he came back to coach again these last few years. I remember when I first started out coaching, I was more of an enthusiastic, 'rah-rah' type of guy. Watching him, I learned patience."

Phil's spirit lives on in all his students, past and present, and all those who knew him. It lives on in his wife, Julie, and his best friend, son Andrew, who is truly a chip off the old block.

By the time Andrew is old enough to play his first high school tennis match, Phil's players are hoping to have the Hempstead courts named in the coach's honor. In the meantime, Phil's extended family will try to make some sense of his death at today's funeral.

That's going to be about as easy as trying to beat Phil in badminton.

"He made people," said Ryan Denman, Hempstead senior tennis player. "He taught us how to live our lives and taught us that it wasn't about winning or losing, but that we always gave 100 percent."

"It's going to be very rough playing tennis this season, from the first day to the last. We'll play the season for him."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRENT RITTER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Brent Ritter, and thank him for enriching the lives of his Pueblo, Colorado community. As Pueblo's most distinguished singer, Brent has become a fixture in almost every musical event put on by the city. It is with great satisfaction and pride that I pay tribute to Brent for his many contributions to his community and state.

Brent's passion for singing developed during his youth while participating in his church choir, and has led him to a fulfilling career as a professional singer. His career took off while serving his country in the Air Force where he won local, national, and worldwide military talent shows. After Brent's service with the Air Force, he settled with his family in Pueblo, and soon became a fixture of the community through his performing in church choirs, with the Pueblo Symphony, and with local theater groups. Brent currently serves as Music Director for the Wesley United Methodist Church, and finds his most rewarding work singing at events where he is able to connect with the people in his community.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear Brent Ritter has a musical gift that he has used to greatly enhance his Pueblo community. His energy, big heart, and tremendous voice have become staples in Pueblo, and it is my privilege to recognize him today before this body of Congress and this nation. I would like to extend my thanks to Brent for being such a positive influence in Pueblo, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on March 3, 2004 for rollcall vote 38, I was unavoidably detained. If I had been present, on rollcall vote No. 38, I would have voted "yea."

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RULING CONCERNING THE FCC

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take note of the decision recently issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia that upholds the intent of Congress in passing the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In the years since the Telecom Act was passed we have seen many important advances in the telecom sector, both technologically and in terms of lower prices for consumers. The Appeals Court found that the FCC did not comply with the Telecom Act when it voted 3-2 last year to adopt its Triennial Review Order. This marks the third time since 1996 that the FCC's rules have been rejected by U.S. Courts. The FCC's failure to get the rules right once again is damaging to consumers, the economy, and the industry. The seemingly never ending intra-industry legal and regulatory battles are resulting in continued uncertainty in the telecommunications and technology sectors. What is at stake is consumer choice, deployment of new and advanced technology, and the livelihood of tens of thousands of workers whose jobs have been lost in this telecommunications recession.

I urge not only the FCC but also the industry itself to end these battles and to devise rules that make sense and which will provide the certainty and incentives needed to free up major investment in the telecommunications sector. Consumers and workers will win only when this happens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROENA FRANK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you to pay tribute to

Roena Frank, an extraordinary woman from my district who has devoted her life to helping the citizens of her community. Roena, who hails from Montrose, Colorado, has dedicated the past thirty years to a career in nursing, and volunteers much of her time working with local charitable organizations. Her work serves as a valuable model of public service to us all, and I would like to ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing her tremendous achievements before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Raising four kids as a single mother, Roena entered the nursing field in order to earn a living for her family. She quickly realized the career she had chosen was her true calling in life. Roena currently serves as a part-time nurse in Delta County, and spends her free time volunteering with local organizations such as the local hospice, a Boy Scout troop, and the Magic Circle Theatre. In addition, Roena, along with her husband Jim, have been very active with the Montrose Christian Church where they have participated in mission trips to Mexico and Chile.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation and pay tribute to the contributions of Roena Frank to her community and state. Throughout three decades of civic and public service, Roena has demonstrated an ardent devotion to her nursing career and charitable work. I would like to thank her today for all the work she has done for her Montrose community and the State of Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO BLAIR CROSS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of a dear friend and a great American. Blair Cross was a loving family man, a patriotic veteran, and a dedicated activist.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work closely with Blair and witnessed his tireless advocacy on behalf of Korean War veterans across the country. Specifically, Blair and I have been working on legislation that would grant the Korean War Veterans Association a Federal Charter, enabling the Association to expand its mission and further its charitable and benevolent causes.

Blair was the Korean War Veterans Association's top advocate for this issue, and I am grateful for his activism, and the activism he encouraged among his fellow Korean War veterans.

Mr. Cross's distinguished service did not go unnoticed. The Joint Veterans Committee of Maryland selected Blair to receive the honor of Veteran of the Year and he was to be recognized this April. Blair was chosen to receive this award from over 10,000 veterans throughout the State.

Mr. Cross also helped in founding the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training. The Baltimore homeless shelter has aided thousands of veterans over the years.

The community, the State, and the country have incurred a tremendous loss with Blair's passing. His advocacy and leadership on behalf of veterans in our State will long be re-

membered and I send my deepest sympathies to his wife Jane, daughter Sharon and Blair's family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 4, 2004 I was unavoidably detained and was absent from the House floor while votes took place. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the consideration of H.R. 3752, the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004, as well as "aye" on the consideration of H. Res. 412, and H. Res. 56. I ask that these comments be submitted for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANK KOENIG

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the philanthropic spirit of Frank Koenig of Montrose, Colorado. Frank responded to a call to community service by founding the Sharing Ministries food bank in Montrose eight years ago. The thriving state of the food bank today is a testament to Frank's tireless efforts, but also to his faith that God will provide and that others will give. Sharing Ministries relies on the contribution of some eighty volunteers, as well as the donations of local food distributors and farmers.

In 1996, Frank Koenig, an ordained Baptist minister and World War II Navy veteran, felt a calling to serve the people of his Montrose community through the establishment of a food bank. He had very little money when he began Sharing Ministries, and was often met with resistance in his efforts to get the charity started. Frank was undeterred and he reached an agreement to lease a vacant freight delivery building from the Rio Grande Railroad, where Sharing Ministries began. During its first month, Sharing Ministries distributed ninety-seven boxes of food to the needy in Montrose. Today, thanks to Frank's efforts, the food bank distributes over three thousand boxes per month, serving those in Montrose and the surrounding communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring the service and compassion of Frank Koenig to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. Frank has shown that one person's effort can really make a difference in their community. I would like to wish him the best and sincerely thank him for his service to Montrose and the State of Colorado.

SUPPORTING KAZAKHSTAN

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to an Op-

Ed article published in The Washington Times on March 4 authored by Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, one of our consistent allies in the fight against international terrorism.

I had the pleasure to meet President Nazarbayev in December 2001 during his official visit to the United States and ever since I closely follow the development of this country. I know that Kazakhstan has achieved significant progress in implementing political, social and economic reforms during the dozen years of their independence. Recent evaluation by The Economist magazine shows Kazakhstan to be among the five most dynamically developing countries in the world with an annual GDP growth of 10.1 percent.

Of course Kazakhstan faces challenges on its path to true democracy, and a lot remains to be done. Nevertheless, Kazakhstan is well on the road to a free market economy and a functioning democracy. Significantly, as a Muslim-majority country, it is also showing the world how to promote a religiously tolerant, and open, society.

It goes without saying that converting from a communist economy to a free-market system in a little more than a decade is, under any circumstances, a formidable challenge.

In the wake of the September 11 attacks on the United States, President Nazarbayev has been one of the first to support us in the fight against the global evil of international terrorism. During Operation Enduring Freedom, his government gave the United States fly-over and landing rights as America led the fight for freedom and democracy in Afghanistan. Kazakhstan was the first and still the only Central Asian country to contribute troops to the multinational peacekeeping force in Iraq.

I believe it is in our nation's interest to continue to support Kazakhstan, a country whose actions have demonstrated its commitment to global security, nuclear nonproliferation, stability, and tolerance for ethnic and religious minorities. Mr. Speaker, I am confident that in Kazakhstan we have a crucial ally. I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and urge all of my colleagues to read it carefully.

[From The Washington Times, Mar. 4, 2004]

PROGRESS IN KAZAKHSTAN

(By Nursultan Nazarbayev)

There can be few greater challenges than to attempt to complete in little more than a decade a political process that in the West took many decades, if not centuries. But this is what Kazakhstan has been attempting since becoming independent in 1991.

In the United States, markets preceded democracy. In Kazakhstan, however, we have sought to lay the foundations of a market economy, civil society and democracy simultaneously. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, we believed this was the only way to pursue economic growth and raise living standards while maintaining stability. Without all three, there was little realistic expectation that an oil-rich state the size of Western Europe, but with a population smaller than that of Holland, could remain free.

Our actions in the early 1990s, including the decision to remove our arsenal of nuclear weapons inherited from the Soviet Union, laid the foundations of our stability and prosperity. As Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld commented during his visit to my country last week, had Saddam Hussein followed Kazakhstan's example, the war in Iraq

never would have been fought. We are now a key ally of the United States in Central Asia and a force for stability and security in the region.

Having set our sights on radical change, we had to rely primarily on our own resources, building new civic institutions from scratch, freeing industry from the shackles of state ownership and fashioning political reform in a way that reflected Kazakhstan's wide religious and ethnic diversity.

Today, 90 percent of the Kazakh economy is in private hands. Growth has averaged 10 percent over the last four years and is projected to continue at comparable levels. Our financial institutions approach Western standards of efficiency. Poverty is steadily being tackled, unemployment is falling, and sound macroeconomic policy has ensured low levels of inflation. Meanwhile, oil exports are rising by 15 percent each year. With the world's energy needs set to double during the present century, there is international recognition that Kazakhstan is emerging as an important and responsible player in international energy markets.

In the longer term, however, we know that oil wealth by itself will not ensure prosperity or guarantee inter-ethnic harmony. Only a broadly based, flexible economy will enable us to address the challenges of rural poverty, provide modern standards of health care, employment and pensions, and tackle the illegal shipment of people, drugs, weapons and extremist ideas from neighboring countries.

Economic reform will, we hope, be further stimulated by Kazakhstan's forthcoming entry into the World Trade Organization. My country's growing participation in international institutions provides an important learning opportunity. But we are not expecting a free lunch. As President Bush wrote in his recent letter to me, the United States is "grateful for Kazakhstan's continued assistance in the war on terror." We have given robust support, allowing our air space to be used and granting emergency landing rights during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Currently, our troops assist in the peaceful reconstruction of Iraq.

After centuries during which the big decisions came from Moscow via a complex bureaucratic chain, freedom and personal responsibility are new concepts to us. But our record should leave no doubt about our intentions.

Democratic reform and measures to enhance human rights must not, however, be introduced in a way that undermines stability. We cannot afford to disturb the atmosphere of religious and inter-ethnic tolerance that every visitor to our country, including his holiness, the pope, and the chief rabbi of Israel, notices immediately.

To those who say the pace of political change is too slow, I offer this personal assurance: We have not given up on reform. This is amply demonstrated by the decision made just a few weeks ago to impose a moratorium on the death penalty and by new legislative proposals to ensure free and fair elections this fall. Indeed, we hope that our twin record of external engagement and internal reform may persuade many countries to support our chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2009.

When friends tell me that we are still not moving quickly enough, I am tempted to reply: "Bearing in mind how far and how quickly we have traveled, how much faster would you like us to go? In steering the infant Kazakh democracy, the accelerator has been used far more than the brake. Please remember also just how long your own societies took to complete the processes on which we are now embarked."

CONGRATULATING DR. DEBORAH GERMAN UPON HER RECEIPT OF THE AMWA CHANGING THE FACE OF MEDICINE: LOCAL LEGENDS AWARD

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to honor one of the nation's leading physicians, Dr. Deborah German, who was recently named by the American Medical Women's Association as a winner of the "Changing the Face of Medicine: Local Legends" award. Dr. German is a highly skilled physician, a noted medical educator, an experienced healthcare administrator, and a supportive colleague who has actively encouraged others to succeed in medicine.

Dr. German is presently the CEO of the nonprofit Saint Thomas Hospital in Nashville, TN, as well as senior vice president and chief academic officer for Saint Thomas Health Services, but her rich career has encompassed clinical practice, research, and academia. After graduating from Boston University and Harvard Medical School, Dr. German completed a fellowship in rheumatic and genetic disease at Duke University Medical Center following her residency. While there, she was a research associate in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and published and presented work on adenosine metabolism at international meetings. She became director of Duke Gout Clinics and the associate dean of medical education at Duke University Medical School.

An appointment as associate dean of students brought Dr. German in 1998 to Vanderbilt University Medical School, where she was later named senior associate dean of medical education. While at Vanderbilt, she was honored with the Chancellor's Award for Human Rights and Affirmative Action.

In addition to numerous awards, publications and professional leadership positions, Dr. German was granted the 2002 AAMC Women in Medicine Leadership Development Award and held the Louisiana State University School of Medicine "Distinguished Woman in Medicine" Visiting Professorship in 2000. Dr. German is a founder and past president of both Tennessee Women in Medicine and the Society of Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine. She was awarded the 2000 Athena Award, given locally to women who have made significant contributions to the advancement of women in our community, and she was inducted into the YWCA Academy for Women of Achievement.

The AMWA's award is only the latest in a long series of awards and achievements for Dr. German, and the people of the 5th District of Tennessee are fortunate to benefit from her talents and from her dedication to excellence in medicine. On behalf of the 5th District, I congratulate Dr. German.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SOLLIE RASO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Sollie Raso, an impressive man whose record of public service and commitment to education in the community of Pueblo, Colorado spans seven decades. Those whose lives Mr. Raso has touched during his distinguished career as an educator know him to be firm, fair, and friendly. He has led by example, never demanding respect, but rather commanding it through his actions. Simply stated, Sollie Raso exemplifies the most sacred of American values: service to the community and dedication to family.

Sollie is the son of Italian immigrants from Calabria, who instilled in him the value of hard work and the love of family. He served his country proudly during the Second World War as a nose-gunner in a B-17, logging many missions over Europe. Upon returning home, he married his high school sweetheart Betty Lou, with whom he raised four children, and moved to Pueblo to begin his teaching and coaching career at Central High School.

In 1956, Sollie was named principal of Central High, even though there were many who did not believe a football coach could succeed as an administrator. Sollie's straightforward administrative style quickly won over his detractors and, after eleven years as a principal, he moved on to become the Pueblo School District Activities Director. After retiring from the school system in 1982, he returned to public service in 1984 for the first of two terms as a Pueblo County Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring the service of Sollie Raso to the attention of this body of Congress, and commend him for the manner in which he has served the community of Pueblo, Colorado. His importance to Pueblo cannot be overstated, and he has helped to shape many leaders of the community. Sollie continues to serve his community as a member of the selections committee of the Greater Pueblo Sports Association, nearly sixty years after he first became an educator. I sincerely thank him for his service.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR OF DAPHNE, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young man from the First Congressional District of Alabama who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom abroad.

Specialist Christopher Taylor, a native of Kentwood, Louisiana, and longtime resident of Daphne, Alabama, was assigned to the 1165th Alabama National Guard Military Police Company based in Fairhope. Last year, Christopher's unit was activated and deployed to Iraq following the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It was there that on February 16, 2004

he was killed when he was hit by shrapnel from an explosive placed along a road on which he and other members of his unit were traveling.

Christopher set a standard of excellence and displayed the qualities of discipline, devotion, and dedication to country that are hallmarks of men and women throughout the long and distinguished history of the American military. As a result of his hard work, Christopher was advanced to the rank of Specialist, and he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, as you can imagine both Daphne and his native Kentwood are truly mourning the loss of this fine young man. I feel certain his many friends in Baldwin County, his coworkers at Golden Stevedoring in Mobile, and his family and friends in Louisiana, while mourning his loss, are also taking this opportunity to remember his many accomplishments during his brief 25 years, and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Specialist Christopher Taylor and his selfless devotion to not only our country and the freedoms we enjoy, but to a people who are but now in the infancy of a new life—a new freedom—in their own land.

We should also remember his parents, Michael and Priscilla Taylor; his brothers David and Nathan; his maternal grandparents, Gerald and Betty Starling; and his paternal grandfather, Ernest Taylor. Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Joseph Campbell who said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." Make no mistake, young Christopher Taylor was not only a dedicated soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, due to the fact that I was unavoidably detained in my district on the dates of March 2, 3, and 4, I was unable to vote on legislation before the House. I wish to submit for the RECORD how I would have voted on those bills.

On rollcall Vote No. 32, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 33, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 34, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 35, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 36, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 37, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 38, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 39, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 40, I would have voted "aye;" and, on rollcall vote No. 41, I would have voted "aye."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB STORCH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise and today pay tribute to Bob Storch and thank him for his leadership and contributions to Colorado as supervisor of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG). Only the level of integrity and honesty that he has brought to the position matches his thirty-eight years of service and dedication to the Forest Service. As Bob celebrates his recent retirement, let it be known that the citizens of Colorado and I are eternally grateful for the outstanding work Bob has done in preserving our National Forests.

Bob began working with the Forest Service as a seasonal laborer, and from 1991 until his retirement, oversaw one of the most complex and largest National Forests in the country. His forest system's 1,800 miles of rivers and streams are a primary source of water for western Colorado, as well as four other states, and provide products and income for the residents of forty-two communities. For his exceptional management of the forests, the GMUG Forests have received national awards for Excellence in Range Management and Outstanding National Forest fisheries, as well as numerous other awards for progressive land management.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Bob Storch has been an invaluable resource for the State of Colorado and to our National Forest System. His selfless dedication to preserving a priceless part of America's landscape is worthy of acknowledgment before this body of Congress and this nation today. Thanks Bob for all your hard work, and I wish you and your wife Nyla all the best in your well-deserved retirement.

THE DECISION OF THE FEDERAL COURT OF APPEALS IN USTA V. FCC

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the March 2, 2004, decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in the case of USTA v. FCC. This decision represents the third consecutive time that many of the FCC's rules for the unbundling of network elements have been judicially reversed. This includes an opinion by the Supreme Court in 1999 in the case of AT&T v. Iowa Utilities Bd. The FCC's attempts to enact unbundling rules continue to be struck down because they fail to apply the Telecommunications Act of 1996's limiting standard.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 required the FCC to establish unbundling rules pursuant to standards that the Congress legislated. The FCC after 8 years has still to carry out its statutory responsibilities.

It is my hope that the FCC will revise its rules forthwith, and with due attention to the limiting standard required by law.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL \$1 COIN ACT OF 2004

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2004." When it is approved, it will create enormous opportunities to educate both children and adults about the history of this country. This legislation is the type we rarely have the opportunity to pass in Congress, and although it is not the goal of the program, it will likely earn the government as much as five billion dollars.

In many ways, this legislation is modeled after the wildly successful "50-State Quarter Program" which I authored and Congress passed and which at the end of last year reached its halfway point. We all know the story: five quarters a year bear images connected with one of the states, so that over a decade each state will have been honored. We all know how popular the program was: before the state quarter program started, the U.S. Mint was making about 400 million quarters a year, but by the next year it was making about 1.2 billion quarters. The Mint estimates that one person in each household is collecting the quarters and they are collecting a full set. According to the most recent numbers from the Mint, about \$4 billion worth of savings has been created for the federal government with an expected \$2 billion more through the life of the program.

The program I am introducing today adopts the same model, but uses the one-dollar gold coin introduced in 2000. For a number of reasons, that coin never achieved its promise of being a useful niche product for use in vending machines, transit systems and low-dollar-value transactions. This bill seeks to address each of the ills that befell the one-dollar coin.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation addresses all of the problems to the circulation of the dollar coin that were identified in an exhaustive General Accounting Office study of a year or so ago. Merchants said the coin wasn't available in useful quantities, and collectors and consumers often had a hard time finding the coin—if they could find it at all. Others said they would use it in commerce, but never got it as change.

The cost of counting and handling currency is much higher than the cost of counting and handling change, Mr. Speaker, and for those sectors of the economy that rely on low-dollar-value transactions, or high-volume transactions such as vending machines or transit systems, having a widely available, easily dispensed and accepted one-dollar coin will save money for businesses, which will help keep costs down for consumers.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation directs the Mint and the Federal Reserve to work with all aspects of the economy to eliminate the barriers to circulation that seem to have harmed the current one-dollar coin, ranging from making sure that the coin is accepted by vending machines—and that the machines are "stickered" to say so—to making sure it is conveniently packaged for retailers and is available in rolled form when it re-circulates through the system, which is not now the case.

It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, this program would be accepted by the public. In a

2002 General Accounting Office Report to Congress, it was found 25 percent of respondents would use the dollar coin more for purchases if there was a rotating design similar to the 50 State Quarter Program. Additionally, nearly 50 percent of respondents stated they would collect the new coin if it featured a rotating design. And 69 percent of respondents favored U.S. Presidents as the choice for the new rotating design on the dollar coin.

Under the program, the images on the front and back of the coin temporarily would be replaced beginning in 2006 with images of the United States presidents. Four presidents a year would be honored, in the order of their service, with a likeness of the President, his name and dates of service and a number signifying the order in which he served, on the front of the coin. The image on the reverse would be that of the Statue of Liberty, large enough to be dramatic but not so large as to create a so-called "two-headed" coin. The date, mint mark and other important mottoes on the coin would go on the edge of the coin, leaving room on the faces for more dramatic artwork, harking back to the so-called Golden Age of American coins at the beginning of the last century.

Mr. Speaker, the educational aspects of this program are obvious. We all know George Washington was the first president, but how many can tell the exact dates of his service to the country? How about the dates of service of the famous Civil War general Ulysses S. Grant, who later became president? And how many in this Chamber can name the only President who would end up with two coins in the series because he served twice, in terms separated by another president's term?

The bill specifies that the program would end at the point when the next coin issued would have to be for a sitting President, as our founding fathers wisely thought that no sitting president's image should be carried on a coin. At that point the coin would return to the images now carried on it, with the stigma of inadvertently being associated with a failed coin program washed from the rich legacy of Sacagewea.

Mr. Speaker, this coin program by itself would be hard to argue with. Teachers will, as they have with the state quarter program, devise lesson plans around it. We will all look at the change in our pocket more closely, and learn more about our country in the process.

But that is only half of this legislation. The second title of the bill creates a nearly pure gold investment-grade bullion coin, the same diameter as the dollar coin and of an appropriate weight and thickness, honoring the First Spouses, who have done so much for our country. On the front, as with the Presidential coins, would be the likeness of the spouse, his or her terms of service and the order in which they served. On the reverse would be images emblematic of the spouse's works. In the five instances to date in which Presidents had no spouses while in office—there's the educational part again—the bill calls for the image on the front of the coin to be that of an image of "Liberty" as used on a U.S. coin circulating during that President's term, and the reverse of the coin to carry images related to the President's term.

These investment-grade coins would be struck in gold that is .9999 percent pure, a purity of gold the Mint never before has used to strike coins. Mr. Speaker, I think using pure

gold for the spouse coin is appropriate, and I think it is appropriate that the President and spouse coins can be sold or collected in all sorts of combinations. Additionally, the spouse coins could be sold merely for their intrinsic investment value.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation gives the Mint a great opportunity to show off its design and engraving talents and to develop new ones. It gives the Mint the opportunity to package the coins in a variety of ways, and the Mint gets more than a year to prepare to issue the first coin, so they can plan and get it right. As well, it allows for a transitional minting of the current dollar coins, though the demand will mostly be for collectors, so that 2006-dated Sacagewea dollar coins may be sold in large Lewis and Clark-Louisiana Purchase commemorative sets with 2006-dated Thomas Jefferson dollar coins. And with both the increase in dollar coins and the striking of bullion investment-grade coins, it creates jobs in a number of industries.

In short, Mr. Speaker, I don't see any downsides to this bill and believe there are so many upsides that it should pass in short order, giving all of us something good, and fun, to talk about when we go back to our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, so that the new \$1 coin may be introduced into circulation in 2006 and that the Mint will be given adequate time to plan this program to ensure it is a logistic as well as an artistic success, I will be seeking to move the legislation quickly. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and look forward to working with the Financial Services Committee to bring this bill to the House Floor as soon as possible.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LT. COL.
MIKE CZAJA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a devoted and compassionate soldier from Paonia, Colorado, Army Lt. Col. Mike Czaja. Mike has worked to keep our nation safe for over 20 years and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his tremendous service to our country.

Mike recently returned from service in Iraq where he oversaw the Psychological Operations units. These army units were instrumental in both reducing casualties during the war and continuing to build support for the rebuilding efforts after hostilities had ceased. During the war, units under Mike's command successfully deterred many Iraqi civilians from waging a fight against coalition forces by dropping leaflets that encouraged the opposition forces to defect, desert or surrender, out of consideration for the safety of both themselves and their families. The literature also encouraged Iraqis to not destroy natural resources like oil that would be vital to future economic recovery and prosperity.

After President Bush declared an end to the fighting, Mike and his troops focused their efforts on communicating messages that would help rebuild Iraq such as information about schools, doctors, and social services. With

Mike's leadership, American soldiers have begun to earn the trust of ordinary Iraqi citizens through face-to-face contact as the situation in Iraq gradually edges toward democratization. Mike continues to serve in the Army until his retirement in August when he will return to the Western Slope of Colorado to pursue a teaching position.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Czaja is a dedicated, selfless American soldier who has been crucial to the fight against terrorism in Iraq and has aided in securing the safety of America's homeland. His outstanding public service to his fellow countryman is setting an important example for America's future generations. Mike's enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. Thank you for your service Mike, and keep up the good work.

IN RECOGNITION OF
RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today before this House I'd like to recognize Rhinelander, Wisconsin, which recently hosted a collapsed structure training exercise for first responders from across northern Wisconsin.

On September 11, 2001, America learned that the best way to defend ourselves against a terrorist attack is through preparation. We were all caught off guard by the terrible events of that day, but rather than wait around for another terrorist strike, America's first responders rallied to make our Nation safer than ever.

Last December, fire fighters, medical professionals and security officials from my district gathered together in Rhinelander to address a serious issue in our area's emergency response network—structural collapses. These first responders received significant training and instruction on how to secure the scene around a collapsed structure and rescue those trapped inside.

Keeping America safe means preparing to stop terrorists wherever they may strike. To terrorists who target all Americans, small towns and villages are just as vulnerable as big cities, and we cannot ignore their needs for greater security. First responders in northern Wisconsin continue to prepare for the unthinkable, and they are a superb example to small communities around the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and pleasure to recognize Rhinelander for its leadership in the war on terror, and on behalf of the residents of Wisconsin's 8th Congressional District, we say keep up the great work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, between Sunday February 29 and Wednesday March 3, 2004, I traveled to Libya as part of a Congressional Delegation led by Representative WELDON and as Member of the House International Relations Committee and the Middle East Subcommittee.

While there, we had the opportunity to meet with Col. Mohammad Qaddafi and members of the Libyan People's Congress to discuss Libya's recent renunciation of state sponsored terror and their development of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Speaker, this prospective opening to the West is not a mystical revision, but a practical decision by the Libyan Government. It must be met with an equally practical policy of one very wary step at a time.

While there, it became clear the Libyan possibility for peaceful regime conversion and rehabilitation gravely underscores the inherent stakes of succeeding in the Iraqi regime change and reconstruction. If the latter fails, the former fades, and we are all worse than we were at square one.

Unfortunately, my participation in this trip forced me to miss a few votes.

During this time I missed six recorded votes. If I was present I would have voted the following way:

On H.R. 3769, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 137 East Young High Pike in Knoxville, Tennessee, as the "Ben Atchley Post Office Building". Roll Number 32, I would have voted "yes."

On H. Res. 526, expressing the sympathy of the House of Representatives for the victims of the devastating earthquake that occurred on December 26, 2003, in Bam, Iran. Roll Number 33, I would have voted "yes."

On H. Res 530, urging the appropriate representative of the United States to the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to introduce a resolution calling upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its human rights violations in China, and for other purposes. Roll Number 34, I would have voted "yes."

On H.R. 912, Charles "Pete" Conrad Astronomy Awards Act. Roll Number 35, I would have voted "yes."

On H.R. 3389, to amend the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 to permit Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards to be made to nonprofit organizations. Roll Number 36, I would have voted "yes."

On H.R. 1417, Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act of 2003 Roll Number 37, I would have voted "yes."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICK ALLEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Rick Allen, the founder of the Christians Reach Out Ministries in Grand Junction, Colorado. His actions are all the more remarkable when one considers that he has overcome a crippling disability and his own homelessness, hurdles which he sees as God's way of preparing him for his path of service. His tireless efforts have motivated others in the community to join with him to give hope to those individuals, that society views as hopeless.

In 1992, after nearly 20 years as a successful truck driver, Rick Allen developed debilitating carpal tunnel syndrome. Losing the use

of his hands precipitated the loss of his job, home and family within a matter of months. Through the years of surviving under the harshest of conditions, Rick came to see his plight as God's way of educating him for his special mission to the homeless.

In 1997, while still homeless and living in a church basement, he began preparing meals and serving them every Sunday at the park where many homeless spend their days. Soon, church members began to join Rick and the program became the Christians Reach Out Ministries. When Rick was awarded long term disability in 1998, he moved into a modest apartment, which he promptly put into use preparing meals for an ever increasing number of people. Rick is currently working on plans for a larger shelter, giving those in need access to healthcare and employment services, in order to make it possible to climb out of the pit of homelessness, which Rick knows firsthand.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring the service and vision of Rick Allen to the attention of this body of Congress, and to commend him for his outstanding dedication to his community. His mission to serve does not end with simply feeding the homeless, but rather in giving the homeless hope for a better life. I would like to wish him the best and sincerely thank him for his service.

IN HONOR OF CAMP RAMAH IN THE BERKSHIRES

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. NADLER. I rise today to honor Camp Ramah in the Berkshires as the Ramah family celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Camp Ramah provides our community's youngsters a unique opportunity to interweave exposure to the beautiful countryside of the Berkshires with education in Jewish values and practice. The benefit of such experience is precious, and I commend Camp Ramah's continued efforts to extend that benefit to all children, regardless of economic limitations. The future of our community depends upon programs and experiences like those provided by Camp Ramah, which has a long history of cultivating knowledge and leadership in our community's youth.

As Camp Ramah prepares to open its doors for the 40th time, I would like to commend those special honorees, Dr. Charles and Barbara Mann and Rabbi Paul and Martha Resnick, who have done so much for the camp and the values that it embodies. It is from teachers like Mr. Mann and Rabbi Resnick that the leaders of tomorrow gain the encouragement, enrichment, and values that they will need to make our future the best it can be. I send my warmest congratulations to the honorees, and thank them for their years of service.

I wish Camp Ramah's extended family of friends and supporters a wonderful evening of entertainment and celebration, and I join you in wishing for the camp 40 more successful years.

A TRIBUTE OF GRATITUDE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL DON "BOBO" SCHILPP

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute one of the many brave men and women who serve all of us in our great military. I would especially like to pay tribute today and offer my personal thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Don "BoBo" Schilpp, of the United States Air Force, for a job well done.

Many of us in Congress know Lieutenant Colonel Schilpp because of his dedicated service during the past four years as the Appropriations/Budget Liaison for the Air Force. This is an important role, at a time when many significant national security decisions were being made in the Congress, affecting the Air Force as well as our nation's ability to fulfill our constitutional role of "provid(ing) for the national defense." The Air Force, through Colonel Schilpp's leadership during the past four years, has given us timely and thorough responses to our requests for information, and I want to take this opportunity as he retires from active duty to express our appreciation to him for all of his efforts. I have also had the pleasure of traveling with BoBo on several occasions, and each time his professionalism and personal attention to detail were the keys to a smooth and successful congressional delegation mission.

Before this assignment, Lieutenant Colonel Schilpp was an accomplished leader and combat pilot with more than 3,400 hours in the F-15 and T-37 aircraft. He served overseas during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Southern Watch accruing more than 260 combat hours.

While I have relied upon Lieutenant Colonel Schilpp's military advice, I have valued his friendship even more, and I know many of my colleagues on defense related committees in the House share in that sentiment. In this regard, I wanted Colonel Schilpp to know that all of us in Congress who have known him and worked with him wish him the very best of luck in all his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DORIS CHERRY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a warm and generous soul who takes pride in brightening the lives of countless Capitol Hill employees and visitors each and every day. Doris Cherry has worked in the Longworth House Office Building cafeteria for 28 years. Doris is an enthusiastic and friendly face amidst the hectic cafeteria environment. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing her tremendous years of service to the Capitol Hill community.

This year Doris was recognized as Employee of the Year by Guest Services for her longtime dedication to customer service. Doris

came to Washington, DC as a child and started work in the Longworth cafeteria as a line server in 1976. She was a grill cook and a deli server for ten years before moving to her current position at the checkout line registers, where she has been a pleasant fixture for Cafeteria patrons over the past 15 years. Doris is a compassionate person who maintains that she is happiest when her customers come in for a break and leave with a smile. Her reputation for kindness and customer care have led patrons to line up 20 people deep to get a chance to speak with Doris.

Mr. Speaker, Doris Cherry is a dedicated individual who genuinely cares about every person she meets. Doris has demonstrated a talent for customer service that resonates in her ability to selflessly enrich the lives of the Capitol Hill Community. Doris's enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. Congratulations on your award Doris. I look forward to continuing to see your friendly face in the Longworth cafeteria.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 32 "yes"; rollcall No. 33 "yes"; rollcall No. 34 "yes"; rollcall No. 35 "yes"; and rollcall No. 36 "yes."

AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and acknowledge March as American Red Cross Month.

For over 122 years the American Red Cross has helped people through man-made and natural disasters. Last September after my district took a huge hit and was smashed by Hurricane Isabel the American Red Cross was there to help.

Hurricane Isabel will not be forgotten and neither will the good work of the American Red Cross. From broad measures to help entire communities to individualized care, the American Red Cross acted swiftly and without hesitation. By creating temporary shelters and providing food and water and medical care to those who needed it, the American Red Cross made an extremely difficult situation bearable. Thousands of homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed by the hurricane and without the American Red Cross countless people would have suffered.

The American Red Cross saves lives. In addition to disaster relief, the American Red Cross' biomedical services program provides life saving aid through their blood and tissue donation efforts.

The American Red Cross has a long history of serving the people of the United States. Es-

tablished by Clara Barton in 1881 as a disaster relief and battlefield assistance organization, the American Red Cross carries on the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity, and Universality are the guiding forces behind the work and service provided by the American Red Cross.

The American Red Cross is truly a blessing to all who benefit from their services. It is impossible to adequately show my appreciation to all of the volunteers and members of the American Red Cross who tirelessly aid people in need. Thank you for this opportunity to honor the American Red Cross and the people who make it a truly wonderful organization.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANK DICAMILLO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Frank Dicamillo on his recent retirement as chief operator of the wastewater treatment plant for the City of Delta, Colorado. For over forty years, Frank helped Delta's sewage and water systems become more ecological and efficient. His service to the community is certainly commendable.

Frank began his career with the City of Delta in 1960, when all the city's wastewater was discharged, untreated into the Uncompahgre River. After serving in the Army from 1963 to 1966, he returned home to find the city building wastewater treatment lagoons. He became responsible for overseeing these lagoons, and in 1968 when the water treatment plant was built, overseeing that as well. One of the most memorable moments in Frank's career came in 1977 when he and his co-workers came to national attention for their success in preventing a water shortage. They solved the problem brought about by a lack of snowfall the previous winter by diverting water from a canal to the water plant. When the new wastewater treatment plant opened in 1985, Frank eagerly accepted the challenge the more complex plant presented and was named Chief Plant Operator.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring the service of Frank Dicamillo to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation, and to congratulate him on an outstanding career. I would like to wish Mr. Dicamillo the best in his retirement. I sincerely thank him for his service.

TRUTH COMMISSION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation calling on the Administration to expose and explain their involvement in Haiti's 33rd coup d'etat.

My legislation will create a TRUTH Commission, which stands for The Responsibility for

Uncovering the TRUTH about Haiti. This independent commission will be bipartisan and work to uncover the Bush administration's role in Haiti prior to President Aristide's exile.

I believe the Bush administration undercut the potential for a diplomatic solution for peaceful democratic elections, any potential for a cease-fire and an end to violence.

It bears primary responsibility therefore, for Aristide's unwilling departure as well as for the sacrifice of the democratic process in Haiti.

As Members of Congress find out more about the events leading up to President Aristide's departure, the twilight activities of his alleged resignation, the current unconstitutional government, and the ongoing turmoil, fear, and misinformation that is still flowing out of Haiti.

We want answers, Mr. Speaker and an independent commission is one of many tools that we intend on exercising.

I have several pressing questions that I hope this commission will find the answers for:

1. Did the U.S. Government impede democracy and contribute to the overthrow of the Aristide government?

2. Under what circumstances did President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resign and what was the role of the United States Government in bringing about his departure?

3. To what extent did the U.S. impede efforts by the international community, particularly the Caribbean Community, CARICOM, countries, to prevent the overthrow of the democratically-elected Government of Haiti?

4. What was the role of the United States in influencing decisions regarding Haiti at the United Nations Security Council and in discussions between Haiti and other countries that were willing to assist in the preservation of the democratically-elected Government of Haiti by sending security forces to Haiti?

5. Was U.S. assistance provided or were U.S. personnel involved in supporting, directly or indirectly, the forces and opposed to the government of President Aristide? Was United States bilateral assistance channeled through nongovernmental organizations that were directly or indirectly associated with political groups actively involved in fomenting hostilities or violence toward the government of President Aristide?

6. Was any U.S. bilateral assistance channeled through non-governmental organizations that were directly or indirectly involved in fomenting hostilities or violence toward the Aristide government?

And there are more questions about the long-term origins of Haiti's current crisis and the long-term impact on the region as a result of the administration's policies.

This was regime change by other means.

We do not teach people to violently overthrow our U.S. Government, and we must not teach other people in the international community, particularly Haiti, to participate in activities that taint the hope for democracy by use of violence.

I stand here today because the Haitian community stands for democracy and not for political maneuvering by the Bush administration.

This is an issue of democracy.

The United States must stand firm in its support of democracy and not allow a nascent democracy like Haiti, fall victim to regime change and an international "racist" foreign policy.

I commend all of my colleagues to join in support of this commission and ask for its timely passage.

TRIBUTE TO LT COL PAULA S.
LORICK

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the outstanding career of an extraordinary United States Army Reserve officer, Lieutenant Colonel Paula Shaun Lorick. General George C. Marshall once said, "There is no limit to the good you can do if you let someone else take the credit for it." Lt Col Paula Lorick spent here career in the Army proving that principle.

During twenty-five years of exemplary service, Lt Col Lorick embodied the duty, loyalty,

and love of country, the selfless service and personal courage that are the core values of the United States Army. Since November 16, 1978, Lt Col Lorick has served in some of the Army's most demanding positions, and served always with distinction. She was a Finance Company Commander, a Postal Company Commander, a key staff member with the Joint Operations Center at US Atlantic Command. In addition to her administrative assignments, Lt Col Lorick was a warfighter, deploying to Dhahran in Saudi Arabia at the height of the Persian Gulf War, and earning the Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Lt Col Lorick pulled other demanding duty as Deputy Director, Military Member Support and Ombudsman Services with the Employer Support of the Guard/Reserve Organization for

the past three years. She played a key role in helping Guard and Reserve members make the transition from civilian jobs to deployment status in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Today marks the end of Lt Col Lorick's long and distinguished career. Having been diagnosed with cancer, Lt Col Lorick is being medically retired in a ceremony fittingly held in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes. In a rare event, Lt Col Lorick is being awarded the Legion of Merit medal, a medal typically reserved for higher-ranking officers. It is a well-deserved, parting tribute from a grateful nation.

I offer Lt Col Lorick our gratitude for her service, our congratulations on the honor bestowed upon her today, and our prayers and support in the months ahead.